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Letter dated 16 February 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On 20 February 2018, Mahmoud Abbas, the Chair of the Palestinian Authority, is set to address the Security Council. As he often does in such international forums, Mr. Abbas is sure to speak of his commitment to dialogue and reconciliation. This is not the message the Chairman portrays when speaking to his own people and to Arab-language audiences.

Just this past January, in an address to the Palestine Liberation Organization Central Council, Mr. Abbas said that Israel "is a colonialist project that has no connection to Judaism" (see annex I, note 1). He then went on to say that the millennia-old yearning of the Jewish people to return to their homeland was nothing more than "slogans [that] were invented for them and they were brought here". In the same speech, Mr. Abbas also made the nefarious accusation that Zionist leaders advocated for anti-Semitism as the "engine of Zionism".

These sorts of hateful statements by Mr. Abbas are unfortunately not new. In September 2015, as part of his quest to delegitimize the connection between the Jewish people and the Land of Israel, Mr. Abbas said that Jews had no rights to the Temple Mount and other holy sites, and that "they have no right to desecrate them with their filthy feet" (see annex I, note 2). He then went on to incite violence, saying that "we welcome every drop of blood spilled in Jerusalem".

Unfortunately, the incitement to violence espoused by Mr. Abbas does not end with dangerous words. The Chair of the Palestinian Authority has made it his official policy to glorify terrorists and incentivize murder, all in the apparent hope of prolonging the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians and, in doing so, avoiding genuine direct negotiations. Palestinian towns and cities are filled with public squares, schools and community centres named for terrorists such as Dalal Mughrabi, a woman who massacred 38 Israeli civilians, including 13 children, in 1978. On occasions when terrorists are released from prison, Mr. Abbas and other Palestinian Authority leaders hold celebratory ceremonies in honour of these convicted murderers (see annex I, note 3).

Most egregiously, despite the warnings and pleading of some in the international community, the Palestinian Authority's official policy of "pay to slay" continues unabated. In 2017, the Palestinian Authority dedicated $153 million to paying imprisoned and released terrorists, and another $191 million in allowances to the families of so-called martyrs. Altogether, the Palestinian Authority paid $344 million directly in support of terrorists. This equals about 7 per cent of the Palestinian

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Authority's budget, and is almost 50 per cent of the foreign aid generously donated by the international community.

Even as Mr. Abbas continues to avoid negotiations with Israel, he has sought to embrace the internationally recognized terrorists of Hamas without demanding that they renounce violence as mandated by the United Nations and the international community. In his dealings with Hamas, Mr. Abbas has not even insisted that the terrorists honour international law and basic human morality and immediately return the Israeli civilians and the remains of Israel Defense Force soldiers Hadar Goldin and Oron Shaul that they are savagely holding hostage.

A comprehensive list of some of Mr. Abbas's most hate-filled statements over the years is detailed in annex I to the present letter. Similarly, we have included documentation portraying repeated instances when Mr. Abbas and Palestinian Authority officials encouraged, and even celebrated, terror against innocent Israelis (see annex II).

It is our sincere hope that the day will soon come when Palestinian leadership will emerge which prioritizes educating towards tolerance and dialogue over hate and violence. We eagerly await this moment, which is sure to bring about the hope for a better future for Israelis and Palestinians.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Danny **Danon**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex I to the letter dated 16 February 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Notes

1. 14 January 2018: In a speech to the Palestinian Liberation Organization Central Council, Mr. Abbas said:

> Egyptian intellectual Abd Al-Wahab Al-Masri, may his memory be a blessing, was one of the most important people that spoke about the Zionist and Jewish movement.... He described this entity with these words: "The significance of Israel's functional character is that colonialism created it in order to fill a specific role; it is a colonialist project that is not connected to Judaism, but made use of the Jews so they would serve as pawns, and they were, under the motto 'the Promised Land' and 'the Beloved Land', and they brought them here".
>
> There is an important matter: how will the Jews immigrate [to Palestine]? The Jews do not want to immigrate because of killing and slaughter. Even during the Holocaust that took place they did not immigrate [to Palestine] (*sic.*; there were many attempts to immigrate to the Land of Israel, many of which were blocked by the British). By the way, the number of Jews in Palestine in 1948 did not exceed 640,000 (*sic.*; according to Israeli government statistics, the Jewish population in 1948 was 660,920), and most of them came from Europe. [Theodor] Herzl [a founder of modern Zionism] used to say: "Antisemitism is the engine of Zionism". In other words, the more anti-Semitic a person is, the more beneficial he is to us [the Jews]. This is because he advances the Zionist goal: to expel the Jews from their countries to Palestine.

2. 16 September 2015: Mr. Abbas was interviewed about the violent riots on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem and said:

> We bless you; we bless the Mourabitoun and the Mourabitat. We welcome every drop of blood spilled in Jerusalem. This is pure blood, clean blood, blood on its way to Allah. With the help of Allah, every *shaheed* (martyr) will be in heaven, and every wounded will get his reward.... All of their steps, we will not allow them. All these divisions, Al-Aqsa is ours, and the (Church of the) Holy Sepulcher is ours, everything is ours, all ours. They (the Jews) have no right to desecrate them with their filthy feet and we won't allow them to.

3. 14 August 2013: Mr. Abbas greeted 11 released terrorists at his presidential compound in Ramallah. All 11 had been serving jail terms for involvement in the killings of Israelis, and several had been jailed for murder.

Annex II to the letter dated 16 February 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

1. 3 February 2018: Mr. Abbas hosted the families of 11 terrorists in Ramallah in a meeting broadcast by the official Palestinian news agency. At the meeting, Mr. Abbas told the families that "[their] sons are martyrs". Among those in attendance were the family of Baha Alian, the murderer of three Israelis on a bus in Jerusalem's Armon Hanetziv neighbourhood in October 2017, and the family of Alaa Abu Jabal, who drove his car into Israeli pedestrians and stabbed the victims in October 2017.

2. 25 December 2017: Mr Abbas meets with Rafat Jawabra, commander of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a known terrorist organization, in his office. Jawabra had just recently finished a 15-year prison sentence for plotting a suicide bombing against Israel in 2002.

3. 29 November 2014: While speaking to the Arab League in Cairo, Mr. Abbas accuses Israel of establishing an apartheid government and said: "We will never recognize the Jewishness of the state of Israel."

4. 21 January 2013: In an interview with Al-Mayadeen, a television station in Beirut, Mr. Abbas said that he "challenges anyone who can deny that the Zionist movement had ties with the Nazis before World War II" and that he has "70 more books that [he] still [hasn't] published" on the "collaboration" between Zionists and Nazis.